

# *Contracting for Oil Spill and Chemical Incident Response, U.S. Coast Guard*

## A Role for Minority and Disadvantaged Small Business Working for the U.S. Coast Guard

There are numerous opportunities for private contractors to assist the Coast Guard in its Marine Environmental Response mission of responding to oil and hazardous chemical spills on the nation's coastline and along inland rivers. The Coast Guard is one of two agencies (the Environmental Protection Agency is the other) who are specifically tasked with immediate response to oil spills and hazardous chemical incidents throughout the country. With passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), Congress mandated a much more active role for the Coast Guard, with a \$1 Billion fund to support that role.

The Coast Guard has many trained and highly qualified personnel in this field, but since the service acquired this mission in 1972 it has always depended on private contractors, working for those Coast Guard men and women, to actually clean up the oil or remove the hazardous materials. Each year the Coast Guard hires contractors in hundreds of spills, spending millions of dollars to assist it in this important national goal.

The Coast Guard uses Basic Ordering Agreements (BOAs) as a prelude to actual contracts. In oil and chemical spill response, time is critical, and it is in neither the Coast Guard's nor the Contractor's interest to advertise, negotiate, and then sign a contract before the contractor starts providing assistance to the Coast Guard's On-Scene-Coordinator, or OSC. BOAs allow pre-contract negotiation and agreement on prices, capabilities available, response times, payment terms, and other relevant contract provisions. Then, if a spill occurs in the contractor's operating area, his capabilities match those the OSC requires; and the contractor agrees to respond; the contract can be entered into immediately. The Coast Guard OSC may activate such a contract over the phone with the BOA contractor. Then a Coast Guard contracting officer contacts the company to confirm the activation of the BOA and provide prompt written confirmation by express courier, fax, or other suitable means.

What services is the Coast Guard looking for? It can use contractors for: cleanup; disposal; providing equipment, not only boom, skimmers, and vacuum trucks but also earth moving equipment, protective clothing for workers, decontamination facilities, trailers for field offices, even ORM equipment; administrative support of the OSC's efforts; claims processing for people or firms damaged by an oil spill; and a host of other services.

For more information on how to "Get on the CG's BOA List," call:

Dani Wildason	Procurement Management Division, CGHQ	(202) 267-1154
Eleanor Deegan	Atlantic Area Contracting Branch	(757) 628-4107
Robert Townsend	Pacific Area Contracting Branch	(510) 437-3009

Information provided by:

USCG National Pollution Funds Center, Arlington, VA

